

PHILLIP ISLAND CONSERVATION SOCIETY INC



Web: picsvictoria.org.au
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/picsvictoria/>
Incorporation No: A 11396
ABN: 48 392 256 921
October 2020

Integrated Transport: Some Key Media Comments

Comments below are included in the media attachment of the PICS submission of 16 October 2020 to:

The Hon. Richard Wynne MP, Minister for Planning

The Hon. Ben Carroll, Minister for Public Transport, Roads and Road Safety

Ms Jordan Crugnale MP

That submission outlines PICS position of advocating for an Integrated Transport Planning Study that is subject to an Environmental Effects Statement.

Community Groups

“While we understand the desire to improve Phillip Island Road to cater for a projected increase in tourism visitation, this must be done holistically, collaboratively, and in an integrated manner to preserve the natural environment on which our tourism economy depends.”¹

“Regional Roads Victoria’s proposed road upgrades for Newhaven are a costly “over-kill”, with no tangible benefits, according to a peak conservation group.”²

“Urban “off the rack” traffic solutions do not fit with this environment without full and proper consideration of unintended impacts. The EES inquiry would seek to provide recommendations on integrated transport solutions including the Island’s unique visitations patterns whilst preserving the Island’s unique and prized environment on which the economy depends.”³

¹ PICS Letter to Ministers Wynne, Carroll, Crugnale 16/10/20

² PICS Phillip Island and San Remo Advertiser PISRA 14/10/20

³ PICS PISRA 14/10/20

“Regional Roads Victoria needs to be transparently consulting with the whole community, rather than seeking to “divide and conquer”, according to Phillip Island’s peak lobby group Island Voice.”⁴

“Preserving the integrity of the destination, not detracting from it, should be the main aim of a coherent strategy for Phillip Island,” Mr Buchanan states.⁵

“The National Trust therefore encourages Regional Roads Victoria to engage with council and the community to first settle the overall strategy for the island before committing to a set design for Newhaven.”⁶

Business Response

“ ...businesses, which include Rip Curl, The Island Accommodation, YHA Phillip Island, and Phillip Island School Camps have called for “significant” changes, saying the roads authority needed to work with local residents, rather than applying “city solutions” to “our magical island community.”⁷

“We demand not a fix for today, but a longer-term vision for the needs and requirements for local business, local community and tourism alike.”⁸

“It is the opinion of this paper that RRV and the community should think carefully about what choices it makes for the future of Phillip Island.”⁹

Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study Community Reference Group

“What concerns me is that VicRoads have already put on the table a plan to make the road through Surf Beach four lanes. This makes me concerned that in fact they are simply proposing to add four lanes pretty well across the island. In my mind that would be a disaster.... it’s certainly not the approach that was identified in the Phillip Island Integrated Transport Study nor the Visitor Economy Strategy.”¹⁰

⁴ Island Voice PISRA 7/10/20

⁵ National Trust Bass Coast PISRA 2/10/20

⁶ National Trust PISRA 2/10/20

⁷ PISRA 7/10/20

⁸ PISRA 7/10/20

⁹ The Editor PISRA 2/10/20

¹⁰ Cr Whelan BC Post 21/2/19

“The council has adopted three different plans that express the community’s desire for alternatives to private car use on the island. These include improved public transport, works to encourage active transport (cycling and walking), a reduction in inappropriate speed limits to protect people and wildlife, and limits on visitor numbers at busy periods.”¹¹

“The community has been told that it’s necessary to finalise the road design before starting other projects. But residents want to see progress on pathways, public transport and demand management.”¹²

Bass Coast Councillors

Cr Whelan

“...we must make sure they continue to listen to the strategies that we’ve got in place rather than putting in place something that suits them and doesn’t suit the issues around the visitor economy strategy and the management of the number of visitors that come to Phillip island.”¹³

Cr Kent

“I feel that RRV is just not listening to the community, commercial retailers or opinion of council. An additional weighted expert enquiry would be beneficial to address and support a line of argument”¹⁴

Cr Ellis

“After four years of stonewalling I believe RRV is a law unto themselves. I attended the consultations in 2016 in Newhaven and little has changed from that first proposal, no matter how much the public have argued against it. Happy to keep up the fight. There is strength in community.”¹⁵

Cr LeServe

“I don’t believe at this stage that we have a shared vision.... The community raised their many concerns with Regional Roads Victoria and they feel that they have not been heard.”¹⁶

¹¹ Mary Whelan Chair PIITS Group BC Post 21/2/19

¹² BC Post 21/2/19

¹³ Cr Whelan BC Post 21/2/19

¹⁴ Cr Kent PICS Q&A

¹⁵ Cr Ellis PICS Q&A

¹⁶ Cr Le Serve PICS Q&A